

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 AGRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /092 W
-----071112 280437Z /14

R 271827Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2540
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 01540

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC GR UK
SUBJECT: GREEK PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' VISIT TO
LONDON

SUMMARY: BOTH UK FOREIGN OFFICE AND LONDON PRESS
INDICATE VISIT OF GREEK PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS TO
LONDON JAN 25-26 WAS A FRIENDLY OCCASION, WITH PREDIC-
TABLY FIRM BRITISH SUPPORT FOR EARLY GREEK ENTRY INTO EC
AND STANDARD GREEK VIEWS ON AEGEAN, CYPRUS, AND NATO.
END SUMMARY

1. FCO (SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DEPT) GAVE US READOUT JAN 27
OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CARAMANLIS AND CALLAGHAN, NOTING
THAT THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS SPENT OVER AN HOUR TOGETHER
WITH NO OFFICIALS PRESENT. ATMOSPHERE THROUGHOUT WAS
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FRIENDLY AND WARM, WITH CARAMANLIS REPORTEDLY IN A
RELAXED AND EXPANSIVE MOOD.

2. EC ENTRY. CARAMANLIS MADE CLEAR THAT MAIN PURPOSE
OF HIS TRIP IS TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE BEHIND NEGOTIATIONS
FOR GREEK ENTRY AND, IF POSSIBLE, SPEED UP THE PROCESS.
CALLAGHAN PROMISED FULL UK SUPPORT, AND EXPRESSED HOPE

THAT EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING ON FEB 7 COULD ENDORSE
A CONCEPT OF SECTOR BY SECTOR NEGOTIATIONS. CALLAGHAN
REMINDED HIS GUEST OF BRITISH EXPERIENCE THAT NEGOTIA-
TIONS OVER MANDATE CAN BE MORE DIFFICULT THAN ACTUAL
ENTRY NEGOTIATIONS. CALLAGHAN OFFERED TO "SWAP NOTES"
WITH THE GREEKS AT ANY TIME IN LIGHT OF RECENT BRITISH
EXPERIENCE WITH ENTRY NEGOTIATIONS.

3. QUALITY LONDON PRESS, IN BACKPAGE COVERAGE, HAS
HIGHLIGHTED GREEK DESIRE TO START "SUBSTANTIVE PHASE" OF
NEGOTIATIONS WITH APPROVAL BY EC COUNCIL OF MANDATE
INVOLVING SEVERAL PHASES OF NEGOTIATIONS EXTENDING
THROUGH 1978. NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BEGIN ON QUESTIONS OF
CUSTOMS UNION; NEXT PHASE (COMPLETED BY MARCH) WOULD
RELATE TO EXTERNAL RELATIONS, CAPITAL MOVEMENTS, IRON
AND STEEL, FOLLOWED BY AGRICULTURE AND THE BUDGET
(COMPLETED BY MAY), WITH RESIDUAL PROBLEMS RESOLVED BY
JULY AND ALL NEGOTIATIONS COMPLETED IN OCTOBER. PRESS
REPORTED BRITISHGAVE GREEK VIEWS A SYMPATHETIC HEARING
BUT NOTED BRITISH VIEW THAT A SPECIFIC TIMETABLE COULD
NOT BE SET UNTIL IT IS CLEARER HOW LONG THE APPLICATION
PROCESS WILL TAKE. (COMMENT: FCO BRIEFERS WERE UNAWARE
WHETHER NEGOTIATING SCENARIO HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN SUCH
DETAIL BUT THOUGHT FOREGOING GREEK TIMETABLE OVERLY
OPTIMISTIC.) FINALLY, CALLAGHAN REITERATED UK POSITION
THATTHE GREEK APPLICATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ON ITS
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OWN MERITS AND NOT LINKED WITH THOSE OF SPAIN AND
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4. AEGEAN. CARAMANLIS MADE A LONG STATEMENT ON THE AEGEAN AND RELATIONS WITH TURKEY, WHICH FCO CHARACTERIZES AS CONTAINING NOTHING NEW. CARAMANLIS STATED ANY FUTURE SUMMIT MEETINGS WOULD NEED VERY CAREFUL PREPARATIONS. HE PLANS TO MAKE NO DECISION ON ECEVIT SUMMIT OFFER IN NEAR FUTURE, AWAITING FURTHER EVIDENCE OF TURKISH INTENTIONS, SUCH AS RESULTS OF NEXT ROUND OF GREEK-TURKISH TALKS ON AEGEAN SCHEDULED FOR PARIS IN FEBRUARY.

5. CYPRUS. CARAMANLIS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ATMOSPHERE HAD IMPROVED SOMEWHAT REGARDING CYPRUS AND THAT ECEVIT WILL PERHAPS HAVE MORE FREEDOM OF ACTION THAN HIS PREDECESSOR. CARAMANLIS SAID IT WILL BE IMPORTANT THAT THE ANTICIPATED TURKISH PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS BE "OF INTEREST" TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THE GREEK CYPRIOTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE INDICATED TERRITORIAL PROPOSALS WOULD BE MORE CRITICAL THAN THOSE IN CONSTITUTIONAL AREA. CARAMANLIS STRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS UNDER UN AUSPICES, DOING SO IN PART TO UNDERLINE GREEK UNWILLINGNESS TO BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

6. NATO. CARAMANLIS REITERATED VIEW THERE CAN BE NO GREEK RETURN TO INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE UNTIL CYPRUS SETTLEMENT IS REACHED.

7. COMMENT: VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE FULFILLED OBJECTIVES OF BOTH SIDES IN RECONFIRMING GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS AND IN DEMONSTRATING STRONG BRITISH SUPPORT FOR EARLY GREEK ENTRY INTO EC. WHILE BRITISH ARE LIKELY TO SUPPORT GREEKS AT EACH STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AS IT UNFOLDS, THE BRITISH

NEVERTHELESS AVOIDED A COMMITMENT TO ANY SPECIFIC
NEGOTIATING SCENARIO, IN VIEW OF THE DIFFERING OPINIONS
ON THIS TOPIC AMONG THE NINE.

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